

What is arsenic?

Arsenic occurs naturally in the environment and as a by-product of some agriculture and industrial activities. The occurrence of arsenic in water supplies is not unusual in Arizona.

Acceptable arsenic levels are determined by the Environmental Protection Agency, a branch of the federal government. The federal standard was changed to 10 parts per billion (ppb) in 2001. The EPA equates this with a few drops in an Olympic-sized swimming pool. The previous standard was 50 ppb.

Is Surprise Drinking Water safe?

Yes. As determined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), water coming from city-owned water facilities does not pose an unreasonable risk to public health. For more information about drinking water and arsenic, please visit the EPA's Web site: www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic/index.html.



12425 W. Bell Road
Surprise, AZ 85374
623.222.7000
www.surpriseaz.com

A hand is holding a clear glass, and a chrome faucet is pouring water into it. The water is splashing and creating bubbles. The background is a solid blue color.

What you need to know about arsenic



What is Surprise doing to comply with the new arsenic standard?

Arsenic levels that exceed the new standard are being addressed by the city of Surprise through construction of coagulation/filtration arsenic treatment facilities.

How does coagulation filtration work?

The arsenic treatment facilities (ATF) treat water from the groundwater wells to reduce the natural-occurring arsenic levels. The treatment currently being used is called coagulation and filtration. With this process the water coming from the wells has chemicals added to it to form particles that are then sent through a series of filters, removing the arsenic. Used filters are backwashed and the rejected water is sent to settling tanks. The settled sludge is taken to the landfill as non-hazardous waste for proper disposal. Once the treated water meets the federal arsenic standard it is safe for consumption.

The city of Surprise Systems

The city of Surprise Desert Oasis Public Water System PWS#07-523 is receiving an arsenic treatment solution. Construction began in March 2008, and the city anticipates bringing the treatment system on line in June 2008. Desert Oasis has historically experienced arsenic levels between 16 ppb and 27 ppb and therefore requires treatment.

The city of Surprise Mountain Vista Public Water System PWS#07-500 will also receive a new arsenic treatment solution. This temporary solution will begin in June 2008, and full implementation is expected by December 2008. Mountain Vista has historically experienced arsenic levels between 5 ppb and 16 ppb.

Permanent arsenic treatment facilities will be in place at Mountain Vista by August 2009.

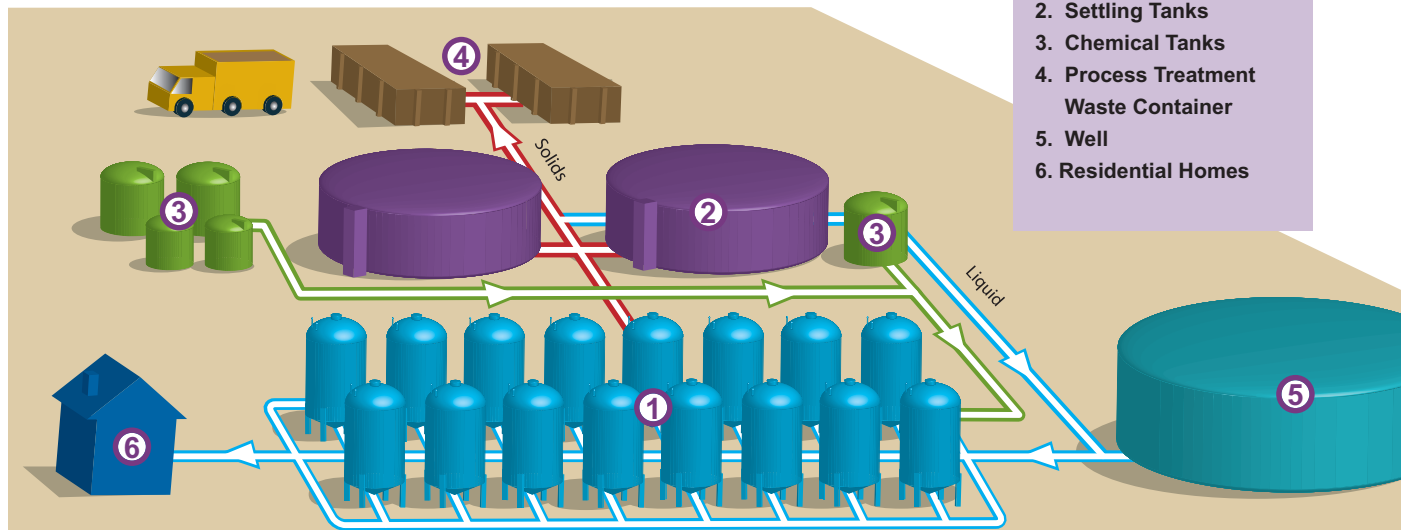
For more information

A link to arsenic treatment has been added to the Surprise Water Services Department Web page. At this site, <http://www.surpriseaz.com/index.asp?NID=1679>, you can find out who your water service provider is,

get more information about arsenic in drinking water and link to other federal and state water quality Web sites.

Questions or comments? Call 623.222.7000.

Example of a arsenic removal and treatment facility



Monitoring Arsenic Levels



ATF Filters



Chemical Tanks